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**MARCH 25, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE VETERINARIAN
PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD**

GREENBELT, MARYLAND - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Mohammed Yehia Baba, age 59, of Salisbury, Maryland, a veterinarian with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pled guilty today before United States District Judge Deborah Chasanow to one count of mail fraud.

According to a statement of facts presented to the court, Baba was enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) and had health insurance coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Between September, 1995 and December, 2002 he received fraudulent reimbursements that totaled \$69,488.55. Baba submitted claim forms including medical notes, laboratory reports, x-ray reports and pharmacy reports that repeatedly contained false information. In some cases, Baba created fraudulent medical invoices and manufactured doctors' letterhead with rubber stamps.

Baba faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the United State Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General and Office of Personnel Management, Office of the Inspector General and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Hollis Weisman.